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### ***GIS Coverages***

Restriction of liability: Neither the state of Idaho nor the Department of Environmental Quality, nor any of their employees make any warranty, express or implied, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information or data provided. Metadata is provided for all data sets, and no data should be used without first reading and understanding its limitations. The data could include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. The Department of Environmental Quality may update, modify, or revise the data used at any time, without notice.

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## Glossary

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**305(b)**

Refers to section 305 subsection “b” of the Clean Water Act. The term “305(b)” generally describes a report of each state’s water quality and is the principle means by which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Congress, and the public evaluate whether U.S. waters meet water quality standards, the progress made in maintaining and restoring water quality, and the extent of the remaining problems.

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**§303(d)**

Refers to section 303 subsection “d” of the Clean Water Act. 303(d) requires states to develop a list of water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. This section also requires total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) be prepared for listed waters. Both the list and the TMDLs are subject to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval.

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**Acre-foot**

A volume of water that would cover an acre to a depth of one foot. Often used to quantify reservoir storage and the annual discharge of large rivers. One acre-foot contains 1234 cubic meters of water.

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**Adsorption**

The adhesion of one substance to the surface of another. Clays, for example, can adsorb phosphorus and organic molecules

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**Aeration**

A process by which water becomes charged with air directly from the atmosphere. Dissolved gases, such as oxygen, are then available for reactions in water.

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**Aerobic**

Describes life, processes, or conditions that require the presence of oxygen.

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**Algae**

Non-vascular (without water-conducting tissue) aquatic plants that occur as single cells, colonies, or filaments.

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**Ambient**

General conditions in the environment (Armantrout 1998). In the context of water quality, ambient waters are those representative of general conditions, not associated with episodic perturbations or specific disturbances such as a wastewater outfall (EPA 1996).



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<b>Anaerobic</b>	Describes the processes that occur in the absence of molecular oxygen and describes the condition of water that is devoid of molecular oxygen.
<b>Anoxic</b>	The condition of oxygen absence or deficiency.
<b>Anthropogenic</b>	Relating to, or resulting from, the influence of human beings on nature.
<b>Anti-Degradation</b>	Refers to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's interpretation of the Clean Water Act goal that states and tribes maintain, as well as restore, water quality. This applies to waters that meet or are of higher water quality than required by state standards. State rules provide that the quality of those high quality waters may be lowered only to allow important social or economic development and only after adequate public participation (IDAPA 58.01.02.051). In all cases, the existing beneficial uses must be maintained. State rules further define lowered water quality to be 1) a measurable change, 2) a change adverse to a use, and 3) a change in a pollutant relevant to the water's uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.003.61).
<b>Aquatic</b>	Occurring, growing, or living in water.
<b>Aquifer</b>	An underground, water-bearing layer or stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding of water to wells or springs.
<b>Assemblage (aquatic)</b>	An association of interacting populations of organisms in a given water body; for example, a fish assemblage or a benthic macroinvertebrate assemblage (also see Community) (EPA 1996).
<b>Assessment Unit (AU)</b>	A segment of a water body that is treated as a homogenous unit, meaning that any designated uses, the rating of these uses, and any associated causes and sources must be applied to the entirety of the unit.
<b>Assimilative Capacity</b>	The ability to process or dissipate pollutants without ill effect to beneficial uses.

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<b>Batholith</b>	A large body of intrusive igneous rock that has more than 40 square miles of surface exposure and no known floor. A batholith usually consists of coarse-grained rocks such as granite.
<b>Bedload</b>	Material (generally sand-sized or larger sediment) that is carried along the streambed by rolling or bouncing.
<b>Beneficial Use</b>	Any of the various uses of water, including, but not limited to, aquatic life, recreation, water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics, which are recognized in water quality standards.
<b>Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP)</b>	A program for conducting systematic biological and physical habitat surveys of water bodies in Idaho. BURP protocols address lakes, reservoirs, and wadeable streams and rivers
<b>Benthic</b>	Pertaining to or living on or in the bottom sediments of a water body
<b>Benthic Organic Matter</b>	The organic matter on the bottom of a water body.
<b>Best Management Practices (BMPs)</b>	Structural, nonstructural, and managerial techniques that are effective and practical means to control nonpoint source pollutants.
<b>Best Professional Judgment</b>	A conclusion and/or interpretation derived by a trained and/or technically competent individual by applying interpretation and synthesizing information.
<b>Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)</b>	The amount of dissolved oxygen used by organisms during the decomposition (respiration) of organic matter, expressed as mass of oxygen per volume of water, over some specified period of time.
<b>Biomass</b>	The weight of biological matter. Standing crop is the amount of biomass (e.g., fish or algae) in a body of water at a given time. Often expressed as grams per square meter.
<b>Biota</b>	The animal and plant life of a given region.

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<b>Biotic</b>	A term applied to the living components of an area.
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<b>Clean Water Act (CWA)</b>	The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act), as last reauthorized by the Water Quality Act of 1987, establishes a process for states to use to develop information on, and control the quality of, the nation's water resources.
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<b>Conductivity</b>	The ability of an aqueous solution to carry electric current, expressed in micro ( $\mu$ ) mhos/centimeter at 25 °C. Conductivity is affected by dissolved solids and is used as an indirect measure of total dissolved solids in a water sample.
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<b>Criteria</b>	In the context of water quality, numeric or descriptive factors taken into account in setting standards for various pollutants. These factors are used to determine limits on allowable concentration levels, and to limit the number of violations per year. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency develops criteria guidance; states establish criteria.
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<b>Cubic Feet per Second</b>	A unit of measure for the rate of flow or discharge of water. One cubic foot per second is the rate of flow of a stream with a cross-section of one square foot flowing at a mean velocity of one foot per second. At a steady rate, once cubic foot per second is equal to 448.8 gallons per minute and 10,984 acre-feet per day.
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<b>Decomposition</b>	The breakdown of organic molecules (e.g., sugar) to inorganic molecules (e.g., carbon dioxide and water) through biological and nonbiological processes.
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<b>Designated Uses</b>	Those water uses identified in state water quality standards that must be achieved and maintained as required under the Clean Water Act.
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<b>Discharge</b>	The amount of water flowing in the stream channel at the time of measurement. Usually expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs).
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<b>Dissolved Oxygen (DO)</b>	The oxygen dissolved in water. Adequate DO is vital to fish and other aquatic life.
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<b>Ecology</b>	The scientific study of relationships between organisms and their environment; also defined as the study of the structure and function of nature.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	The interacting system of a biological community and its non-living (abiotic) environmental surroundings.
<b>Effluent</b>	A discharge of untreated, partially treated, or treated wastewater into a receiving water body.
<b>Endangered Species</b>	Animals, birds, fish, plants, or other living organisms threatened with imminent extinction. Requirements for declaring a species as endangered are contained in the Endangered Species Act.
<b>Environment</b>	The complete range of external conditions, physical and biological, that affect a particular organism or community.
<b>Ephemeral Stream</b>	A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation. It receives little or no water from springs and no long continued supply from melting snow or other sources. Its channel is at all times above the water table (American Geological Institute 1962).
<b>Erosion</b>	The wearing away of areas of the earth's surface by water, wind, ice, and other forces.
<b>Eutrophic</b>	From Greek for "well nourished," this describes a highly productive body of water in which nutrients do not limit algal growth. It is typified by high algal densities and low clarity.
<b>Eutrophication</b>	1) Natural process of maturing (aging) in a body of water. 2) The natural and human-influenced process of enrichment with nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, leading to an increased production of organic matter.
<b>Exceedance</b>	A violation (according to DEQ policy) of the pollutant levels permitted by water quality criteria.

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**Existing Beneficial Use or Existing Use**

A beneficial use actually attained in waters on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not the use is designated for the waters in Idaho's *Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements* (IDAPA 58.01.02).

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**Extrapolation**

Estimation of unknown values by extending or projecting from known values.

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**Feedback Loop**

In the context of watershed management planning, a feedback loop is a process that provides for tracking progress toward goals and revising actions according to that progress.

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**Flow**

See *Discharge*.

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**Fluvial**

In fisheries, this describes fish whose life history takes place entirely in streams but migrate to smaller streams for spawning.

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**Fully Supporting**

In compliance with water quality standards and within the range of biological reference conditions for all designated and exiting beneficial uses as determined through the *Water Body Assessment Guidance* (Grafe et al. 2002).

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**Fully Supporting Cold Water**

Reliable data indicate functioning, sustainable cold water biological assemblages (e.g., fish, macroinvertebrates, or algae), none of which have been modified significantly beyond the natural range of reference conditions.

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**Geographical Information Systems (GIS)**

A georeferenced database.

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**Geometric Mean**

A back-transformed mean of the logarithmically transformed numbers often used to describe highly variable, right-skewed data (a few large values), such as bacterial data.

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**Gradient**

The slope of the land, water, or streambed surface.

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**Ground Water**

Water found beneath the soil surface saturating the layer in which it is located. Most ground water originates as rainfall, is free to move under the influence of gravity, and usually emerges again as stream flow.

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<b>Habitat</b>	The living place of an organism or community.
<b>Headwater</b>	The origin or beginning of a stream.
<b>Hydrologic Unit</b>	One of a nested series of numbered and named watersheds arising from a national standardization of watershed delineation. The initial 1974 effort (USGS 1987) described four levels (region, subregion, accounting unit, cataloging unit) of watersheds throughout the United States. The fourth level is uniquely identified by an eight-digit code built of two-digit fields for each level in the classification. Originally termed a cataloging unit, fourth field hydrologic units have been more commonly called subbasins. Fifth and sixth field hydrologic units have since been delineated for much of the country and are known as watershed and subwatersheds, respectively.
<b>Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)</b>	The number assigned to a hydrologic unit. Often used to refer to fourth field hydrologic units.
<b>Hydrology</b>	The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water.
<b>Inorganic</b>	Materials not derived from biological sources.
<b>Instantaneous</b>	A condition or measurement at a moment (instant) in time.
<b>Intermittent Stream</b>	1) A stream that flows only part of the year, such as when the ground water table is high or when the stream receives water from springs or from surface sources such as melting snow in mountainous areas. The stream ceases to flow above the streambed when losses from evaporation or seepage exceed the available stream flow. 2) A stream that has a period of zero flow for at least one week during most years.
<b>Irrigation Return Flow</b>	Surface (and subsurface) water that leaves a field following the application of irrigation water and eventually flows into streams.
<b>Land Application</b>	A process or activity involving application of wastewater, surface water, or semi-liquid material to the land surface for

the purpose of treatment, pollutant removal, or ground water recharge.

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**Limiting Factor**

A chemical or physical condition that determines the growth potential of an organism. This can result in a complete inhibition of growth, but typically results in less than maximum growth rates.

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**Limnology**

The scientific study of fresh water, especially the history, geology, biology, physics, and chemistry of lakes.

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**Load Allocation (LA)**

A portion of a water body's load capacity for a given pollutant that is given to a particular nonpoint source (by class, type, or geographic area).

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**Load(ing)**

The quantity of a substance entering a receiving stream, usually expressed in pounds or kilograms per day or tons per year. Loading is the product of flow (discharge) and concentration.

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**Load(ing) Capacity (LC)**

A determination of how much pollutant a water body can receive over a given period without causing violations of state water quality standards. Upon allocation to various sources, and a margin of safety, it becomes a total maximum daily load.

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**Lotic**

An aquatic system with flowing water such as a brook, stream, or river where the net flow of water is from the headwaters to the mouth.

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**Macroinvertebrate**

An invertebrate animal (without a backbone) large enough to be seen without magnification and retained by a 500µm mesh (U.S. #30) screen.

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**Macrophytes**

Rooted and floating vascular aquatic plants, commonly referred to as water weeds. These plants usually flower and bear seeds. Some forms, such as duckweed and coontail (*Ceratophyllum sp.*), are free-floating forms not rooted in sediment.

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**Margin of Safety (MOS)**

An implicit or explicit portion of a water body's loading capacity set aside to allow the uncertainty about the relationship between the pollutant loads and the quality of the receiving water body. This is a required component of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) and is often incorporated into

conservative assumptions used to develop the TMDL (generally within the calculations and/or models). The MOS is not allocated to any sources of pollution.

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**Mass Wasting**

A general term for the down slope movement of soil and rock material under the direct influence of gravity.

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**Mean**

Describes the central tendency of a set of numbers. The arithmetic mean (calculated by adding all items in a list, then dividing by the number of items) is the statistic most familiar to most people.

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**Median**

The middle number in a sequence of numbers. If there are an even number of numbers, the median is the average of the two middle numbers. For example, 4 is the median of 1, 2, 4, 14, 16; 6 is the median of 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11.

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**Metric**

1) A discrete measure of something, such as an ecological indicator (e.g., number of distinct taxon). 2) The metric system of measurement.

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**Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)**

A unit of measure for concentration. In water, it is essentially equivalent to parts per million (ppm).

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**Million Gallons per Day (MGD)**

A unit of measure for the rate of discharge of water, often used to measure flow at wastewater treatment plants. One MGD is equal to 1.547 cubic feet per second.

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**Miocene**

Of, relating to, or being an epoch of, the Tertiary between the Pliocene and the Oligocene periods, or the corresponding system of rocks.

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**Monitoring**

A periodic or continuous measurement of the properties or conditions of some medium of interest, such as monitoring a water body.

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**Mouth**

The location where flowing water enters into a larger water body.



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**National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)**

A national program established by the Clean Water Act for permitting point sources of pollution. Discharge of pollution from point sources is not allowed without a permit.

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**Natural Condition**

The condition that exists with little or no anthropogenic influence.

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**Nitrogen**

An element essential to plant growth, and thus is considered a nutrient.

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**Nonpoint Source**

A dispersed source of pollutants, generated from a geographical area when pollutants are dissolved or suspended in runoff and then delivered into waters of the state. Nonpoint sources are without a discernable point or origin. They include, but are not limited to, irrigated and non-irrigated lands used for grazing, crop production, and silviculture; rural roads; construction and mining sites; log storage or rafting; and recreation sites.

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**Not Assessed (NA)**

A concept and an assessment category describing water bodies that have been studied, but are missing critical information needed to complete an assessment.

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**Not Attainable**

A concept and an assessment category describing water bodies that demonstrate characteristics that make it unlikely that a beneficial use can be attained (e.g., a stream that is dry but designated for salmonid spawning).

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**Not Fully Supporting**

Not in compliance with water quality standards or not within the range of biological reference conditions for any beneficial use as determined through the *Water Body Assessment Guidance* (Grafe et al. 2002).

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**Not Fully Supporting Cold Water**

At least one biological assemblage has been significantly modified beyond the natural range of its reference condition.

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**Nuisance**

Anything that is injurious to the public health or an obstruction to the free use, in the customary manner, of any waters of the state.

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<b>Nutrient</b>	Any substance required by living things to grow. An element or its chemical forms essential to life, such as carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorus. Commonly refers to those elements in short supply, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which usually limit growth.
<b>Nutrient Cycling</b>	The flow of nutrients from one component of an ecosystem to another, as when macrophytes die and release nutrients that become available to algae (organic to inorganic phase and return).
<b>Oligotrophic</b>	The Greek term for “poorly nourished.” This describes a body of water in which productivity is low and nutrients are limiting to algal growth, as typified by low algal density and high clarity.
<b>Organic Matter</b>	Compounds manufactured by plants and animals that contain principally carbon.
<b>Orthophosphate</b>	A form of soluble inorganic phosphorus most readily used for algal growth.
<b>Oxygen-Demanding Materials</b>	Those materials, mainly organic matter, in a water body that consume oxygen during decomposition.
<b>Parameter</b>	A variable, measurable property whose value is a determinant of the characteristics of a system, such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, and fish populations are parameters of a stream or lake.
<b>Partitioning</b>	The sharing of limited resources by different races or species; use of different parts of the habitat, or the same habitat at different times. Also the separation of a chemical into two or more phases, such as partitioning of phosphorus between the water column and sediment.
<b>Perennial Stream</b>	A stream that flows year-around in most years.
<b>pH</b>	The negative log <sub>10</sub> of the concentration of hydrogen ions, a measure which in water ranges from very acid (pH=1) to very

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alkaline (pH=14). A pH of 7 is neutral. Surface waters usually measure between pH 6 and 9.

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**Phosphorus**

An element essential to plant growth, often in limited supply, and thus considered a nutrient.

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**Physiochemical**

In the context of bioassessment, the term is commonly used to mean the physical and chemical factors of the water column that relate to aquatic biota. Examples in bioassessment usage include saturation of dissolved gases, temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved or suspended solids, forms of nitrogen, and phosphorus. This term is used interchangeable with the term “physical/chemical.”

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**Plankton**

Microscopic algae (phytoplankton) and animals (zooplankton) that float freely in open water of lakes and oceans.

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**Point Source**

A source of pollutants characterized by having a discrete conveyance, such as a pipe, ditch, or other identifiable “point” of discharge into a receiving water. Common point sources of pollution are industrial and municipal wastewater.

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**Pollutant**

Generally, any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems.

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**Pollution**

A very broad concept that encompasses human-caused changes in the environment which alter the functioning of natural processes and produce undesirable environmental and health effects. This includes human-induced alteration of the physical, biological, chemical, and radiological integrity of water and other media.

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**Population**

A group of interbreeding organisms occupying a particular space; the number of humans or other living creatures in a designated area.

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**Primary Productivity**

The rate at which algae and macrophytes fix carbon dioxide using light energy. Commonly measured as milligrams of carbon per square meter per hour.

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**Qualitative**

Descriptive of kind, type, or direction.

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**Quality Assurance (QA)**

A program organized and designed to provide accurate and precise results. Included are the selection of proper technical methods, tests, or laboratory procedures; sample collection and preservation; the selection of limits; data evaluation; quality control; and personnel qualifications and training (Rand 1995). The goal of QA is to assure the data provided are of the quality needed and claimed (EPA 1996).

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**Quality Control (QC)**

Routine application of specific actions required to provide information for the quality assurance program. Included are standardization, calibration, and replicate samples (Rand 1995). QC is implemented at the field or bench level (EPA 1996).

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**Quantitative**

Descriptive of size, magnitude, or degree.

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**Reach**

A stream section with fairly homogenous physical characteristics.

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**Reconnaissance**

An exploratory or preliminary survey of an area.

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**Reference**

A physical or chemical quantity whose value is known and thus is used to calibrate or standardize instruments.

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**Reference Condition**

1) A condition that fully supports applicable beneficial uses with little affect from human activity and represents the highest level of support attainable. 2) A benchmark for populations of aquatic ecosystems used to describe desired conditions in a biological assessment and acceptable or unacceptable departures from them. The reference condition can be determined through examining regional reference sites, historical conditions, quantitative models, and expert judgment (Hughes 1995).

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**Reference Site**

A specific locality on a water body that is minimally impaired and is representative of reference conditions for similar water bodies.

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**Representative Sample**

A portion of material or water that is as similar in content and consistency as possible to that in the larger body of material or water being sampled.

<b>Resident</b>	A term that describes fish that do not migrate.
<b>Respiration</b>	A process by which organic matter is oxidized by organisms, including plants, animals, and bacteria. The process converts organic matter to energy, carbon dioxide, water, and lesser constituents.
<b>Riffle</b>	A relatively shallow, gravelly area of a streambed with a locally fast current, recognized by surface choppiness. Also an area of higher streambed gradient and roughness.
<b>Riparian</b>	Associated with aquatic (stream, river, lake) habitats. Living or located on the bank of a water body.
<b>River</b>	A large, natural, or human-modified stream that flows in a defined course or channel or in a series of diverging and converging channels.
<b>Runoff</b>	The portion of rainfall, melted snow, or irrigation water that flows across the surface, through shallow underground zones (interflow), and through ground water to creates streams.
<b>Sediments</b>	Deposits of fragmented materials from weathered rocks and organic material that were suspended in, transported by, and eventually deposited by water or air.
<b>Species</b>	1) A reproductively isolated aggregate of interbreeding organisms having common attributes and usually designated by a common name. 2) An organism belonging to such a category.
<b>Spring</b>	Ground water seeping out of the earth where the water table intersects the ground surface.
<b>Stenothermal</b>	Unable to tolerate a wide temperature range.
<b>Stratification</b>	A Department of Environmental Quality classification method used to characterize comparable units (also called classes or strata).

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**Stream**

A natural water course containing flowing water, at least part of the year. Together with dissolved and suspended materials, a stream normally supports communities of plants and animals within the channel and the riparian vegetation zone.

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**Stream Order**

Hierarchical ordering of streams based on the degree of branching. A first-order stream is an unforked or unbranched stream. Under Strahler's (1957) system, higher order streams result from the joining of two streams of the same order.

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**Storm Water Runoff**

Rainfall that quickly runs off the land after a storm. In developed watersheds the water flows off roofs and pavement into storm drains that may feed quickly and directly into the stream. The water often carries pollutants picked up from these surfaces.

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**Subbasin**

A large watershed of several hundred thousand acres. This is the name commonly given to 4<sup>th</sup> field hydrologic units (also see Hydrologic Unit).

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**Subbasin Assessment (SBA)**

A watershed-based problem assessment that is the first step in developing a total maximum daily load in Idaho.

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**Subwatershed**

A smaller watershed area delineated within a larger watershed, often for purposes of describing and managing localized conditions. Also proposed for adoption as the formal name for 6<sup>th</sup> field hydrologic units.

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**Surface Fines**

Sediments of small size deposited on the surface of a streambed or lake bottom. The upper size threshold for fine sediment for fisheries purposes varies from 0.8 to 605 millimeters depending on the observer and methodology used. Results are typically expressed as a percentage of observation points with fine sediment.

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**Surface Water**

All water naturally open to the atmosphere (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, impoundments, seas, estuaries, etc.) and all springs, wells, or other collectors that are directly influenced by surface water.

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**Suspended Sediments**

Fine material (usually sand size or smaller) that remains suspended by turbulence in the water column until deposited in areas of weaker current. These sediments cause turbidity and, when deposited, reduce living space within streambed gravels and can cover fish eggs or alevins.

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**Threatened Species**

Species, determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

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**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**

A TMDL is a water body's load capacity after it has been allocated among pollutant sources. It can be expressed on a time basis other than daily if appropriate. Sediment loads, for example, are often calculated on an annual basis. A TMDL is equal to the load capacity, such that  $\text{load capacity} = \text{margin of safety} + \text{natural background} + \text{load allocation} + \text{wasteload allocation} = \text{TMDL}$ . In common usage, a TMDL also refers to the written document that contains the statement of loads and supporting analyses, often incorporating TMDLs for several water bodies and/or pollutants within a given watershed.

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**Total Suspended Solids (TSS)**

The dry weight of material retained on a filter after filtration. Filter pore size and drying temperature can vary. American Public Health Association Standard Methods (Franson et al. 1998) call for using a filter of 2.0 microns or smaller; a 0.45 micron filter is also often used. This method calls for drying at a temperature of 103-105 °C.

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**Tributary**

A stream feeding into a larger stream or lake.

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**Total Dissolved Solids**

Dry weight of all material in solution in a water sample as determined by evaporating and drying filtrate.

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**Tributary**

A stream feeding into a larger stream or lake.

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**Trophic State**

The level of growth or productivity of a lake as measured by phosphorus content, chlorophyll *a* concentrations, amount (biomass) of aquatic vegetation, algal abundance, and water clarity.

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**Turbidity**

A measure of the extent to which light passing through water is scattered by fine suspended materials. The effect of turbidity depends on the size of the particles (the finer the particles, the greater the effect per unit weight) and the color of the particles.

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**Wasteload Allocation (WLA)**

The portion of receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated to one of its existing or future point sources of pollution. Wasteload allocations specify how much pollutant each point source may release to a water body.

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**Water Body**

A stream, river, lake, estuary, coastline, or other water feature, or portion thereof.

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**Water Column**

Water between the interface with the air at the surface and the interface with the sediment layer at the bottom. The idea derives from a vertical series of measurements (oxygen, temperature, phosphorus) used to characterize water.

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**Water Quality**

A term used to describe the biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a beneficial use.

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**Water Quality Criteria**

Levels of water quality expected to render a body of water suitable for its designated uses. Criteria are based on specific levels of pollutants that would make the water harmful if used for drinking, swimming, farming, or industrial processes.

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**Water Quality Limited**

A label that describes water bodies for which one or more water quality criterion is not met or beneficial uses are not fully supported. Water quality limited segments may or may not be on a §303(d) list.

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**Water Quality Limited Segment (WQLS)**

Any segment placed on a state's §303(d) list for failure to meet applicable water quality standards, and/or is not expected to meet applicable water quality standards in the period prior to the next list. These segments are also referred to as "§303(d) listed."

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**Water Quality Management Plan**

A state or area-wide waste treatment management plan developed and updated in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act.



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**Water Quality Modeling**

The prediction of the response of some characteristics of lake or stream water based on mathematical relations of input variables such as climate, stream flow, and inflow water quality.

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**Water Quality Standards**

State-adopted and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved ambient standards for water bodies. The standards prescribe the use of the water body and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses.

**Water Table**

The upper surface of ground water; below this point, the soil is saturated with water.

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**Watershed**

1) All the land which contributes runoff to a common point in a drainage network, or to a lake outlet. Watersheds are infinitely nested, and any large watershed is composed of smaller “subwatersheds.” 2) The whole geographic region which contributes water to a point of interest in a water body.

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**Water Body Identification Number (WBID)**

A number that uniquely identifies a water body in Idaho and ties in to the Idaho water quality standards and GIS information.

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